Author's response to reviews

Title: Plasma procalcitonin is associated with all-cause and cancer mortality in apparently healthy men: a prospective population-based study

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Version: 3 Date: 31 May 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear BMC Medicine editor,

We would like to thank the reviewer for the comment. Please find our answer below in italics. The corresponding changes are highlighted in red in the attached revised version of the manuscript.

Sincerely,

Alexandru Schiopu and Olle Melander

Reviewer 3

Minor Essential Revision

As the ROC analyses testing relationship between PCT and total mortality, cancer mortality and incidence of colon cancer in men was performed, the results were not covered in the paper. I would suggest to discuss the result including at least the value of AUC with clear conclusion that according to your results PCT is not biomarker suitable for prediction of cancer or total mortality in healthy men in a daily clinical practice.

*We thank the reviewer for the useful comments, which have helped us clarify this important question. An additional paragraph presenting the AUC values for the ROC analyses regarding total mortality, cancer mortality and incidence of colon cancer in men has been added at the end of the Results section of the manuscript. The results are now discussed in the first paragraph of the Discussion section. The changes are highlighted in red in the revised version of the manuscript.*